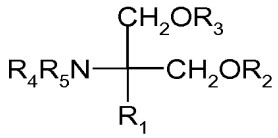
Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1-11. (Cancelled)

12. (New) A method for treating, alleviating or delaying the progression of optic neuritis in a subject in need thereof comprising administering an S1P receptor agonist of formula (I)



I

wherein R_1 is a straight- or branched (C_{12-22})carbon chain
- which may have in the chain a bond or a hetero atom selected from a double bond, a triple bond, O, S, NR_6, wherein R_6 is H, alkyl, aralkyl, acyl or alkoxycarbonyl, and carbonyl, and/or
- which may have as a substituent alkoxy, alkenyloxy, alkynyloxy, aralkyloxy, acyl, alkylamino, alkylthio, acylamino, alkoxycarbonyl, alkoxycarbonylamino, acyloxy, alkylcarbamoyl, nitro, halogen, amino, hydroxyimino, hydroxy or carboxy; or

R_1 is
- a phenylalkyl wherein alkyl is a straight- or branched (C_{6-20})carbon chain; or
- a phenylalkyl wherein alkyl is a straight- or branched (C_{1-30})carbon chain wherein said phenylalkyl is substituted by
- a straight- or branched (C_{6-20})carbon chain optionally substituted by halogen,
- a straight- or branched (C_{6-20})alkoxy chain optionally substitued by halogen,
- a straight- or branched (C_{6-20})alkenyloxy,
- phenylalkoxy, halophenylalkoxy, phenylalkoxyalkyl, phenoxyalkoxy or phenoxyalkyl,
- cycloalkylalkyl substituted by C_{6-20}alkyl,
- heteroarylalkyl substituted by C_{6-20}alkyl,
- heterocyclic C_{6-20}alkyl or
- heterocyclic alkyl substituted by C_{2-20}alkyl,

and wherein
the alkyl moiety may have
- in the carbon chain, a bond or a heteroatom selected from a double bond, a triple bond, O, S, sulfinyl, sulfonyl, or NR_6, wherein R_6 is as defined above, and
- as a substituent alkoxy, alkenyloxy, alkynyloxy, aralkyloxy, acyl, alkylamino, alkylthio, acylamino, alkoxycarbonyl, alkoxycarbonylamino, acyloxy, alkylcarbamoyl, nitro, halogen, amino, hydroxy or carboxy, and

each of R_2, R_3, R_4 and R_5, independently, is H, C_{1-4} alkyl or acyl

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or phosphate thereof.

13. (New) A method according to claim 12, wherein the S1P receptor agonist is selected from 2-amino-2-[2-(4-octylphenyl) ethyl]propane-1,3-diol, 2-amino-2-{2-[4-(1-oxo-5-phenylpentyl)phenyl]ethyl}propane-1,3-diol and their respective phosphate, in free form or in a pharmaceutically acceptable salt form.

14. (New) A method according to claim 12, wherein the compound administered further comprises at least one co-agent shown to have clinical activity against at least one symptom of a demyelinating disease.

15. (New) A method according to claim 14, wherein the co-agent b) is selected from the group consisting of interferons, altered peptide ligands, immunosuppressants, adenosine deaminase inhibitors, IV immunoglobulin G, monoclonal antibodies to T-cell surface markers, TH2 promoting cytokines, compounds which inhibit expression of TH1 promoting cytokines, antispasticity agents, AMPA glutamate receptor antagonists, inhibitors of VCAM-1 expression or antagonists of its ligand, anti-macrophage migration inhibitory factor, cathepsin S inhibitors and mTOR inhibitors.

16. (New) A method according to claim 15, wherein the S1P receptor agonist is selected from 2-amino-2-[2-(4-octylphenyl) ethyl]propane-1,3-diol, 2-amino-2-{2-[4-(1-oxo-5-phenylpentyl)phenyl]ethyl}propane-1,3-diol and their respective phosphate, in free form or in a pharmaceutically acceptable salt form.